

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /071 W
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R 271206Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 734

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 3248

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CD, FR

SUBJ: CHADIAN-FRENCH RELATIONS

REF: LIBREVILLE 2137

1. IN INITIAL CALL DECEMBER 27 ON AMBASSADOR, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR DALLIER SAID THAT LAST WEEK'S TALKS BETWEEN GOF AND GOC WERE VERY SATISFACTORY. FOLLOWING MEETING IN OTIBREVILLE BETWEEN MINISTER OF TRANSPORT GALLEY AND FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUQUE (REFTEL), GALLEY STOPPED IN NDJAMENA, DECEMBER 23 AND 24, AND MET WITH PRESIDENT MALLOUM.

2. DALLIER SAID THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS ENTERED INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH GOOD-WILL AND DESIRE TO SET NEW COURSE IN THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN JANUARY, HE SAID, A MISSION WOULD COME FROM PARIS TO NEGOTIATE NEW CONVENTIONS TO REPLACE THOSE OF 1960, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS OBSOLETE (HE CITED AS EXAMPLES PROVISION IN OLD AGREEMENT WHICH GAVE FRANCE PRIORITY IN ANY EXPLORATION FOR MINERALS AND FACT THAT FRENCH OFFICER SERVED AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF CHADIAN ARMED FORCES). THIS MISSION WILL PROBABLY BE HEADED BY MINISTER GALLEY AND INCLUDE CHIEF OF AFRICAN DIVISION OF FOREIGN OFFICE GEORGY. DALLIER STRESSED THAT MISSION WOULD REPRESENT FOREIGN OFFICE ("SINCE THE NEGOTIATION IS A POLITICAL MATTER") RATHER THAN MINISTRY OF COOPERATION.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, DALLIER SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD COVER BOTH MILITARY AND CIVIL COOPERATION. ONE SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE THE FUTURE OF FRENCH PROPERTY ON THE BASE, DALLIER COMMENTING THAT HAVING A FRENCH MILITARY BASE IN CHAD WAS "AN OUTMODED CONCEPT". FRANCE, HE SAID, WOULD OFFER TO CONTINUE MILITARY AID, INCLUDING "REEQUIPPING AND MODERNIZING CHADIAN ARMY" AND TRAINING IN USE OF EQUIPMENT. EQUIPMENT WOULD BE A GRANT, RATHER THAN LOAN TO CHADIAN ARMED FORCES; A GRANT BECAUSE, HE SAID, CHAD DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO PAY. ON THE CIVIL SIDE, THE FRENCH MISSION WOULD DISCUSS THE AMOUNT OF BUDGETARY SUBSIDY GOV WOULD OFFER.

4. AT THIS POINT, DALLIER MENTIONED INTEREST OF "THE EAST" IN CHAD, REFERRING TO SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN GUINEA AND IS ANGOLA. THIS REFERENCE PLUS AN EXPOSITION OF FRANCE'S CONTINUED ROLE IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA, LEADS EMBASSY TO CONCLUSION THAT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA ARE ONE REASON FOR FRANCE'S WILLINGNESS TO SEEK RENEGOTIATION OF CONVENTIONS WITH CHAD, INCLUDING POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANT MILITARY AID. LITTLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, ARBITRATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NDJAME03248
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750448-0363
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751210/aaaaaiqj.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LIBREVILLE 2137
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHADIAN-FRENCH RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CD, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006